

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a program based on a criteria; and
~~lowering~~changing a ~~quality~~compression level of the program, wherein the ~~lowering~~changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:
selecting the program based on a ranking of a category to which the program belongs.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:
selecting the program based on whether the program previously had the ~~quality~~compression level ~~lowered~~changed.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:
selecting the program based on an age of the program.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:
selecting the program based on a difference between a current ~~quality~~compression level of the program and a minimum ~~quality~~compression level of the program.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:
selecting the program based on the criteria and an importance of the criteria.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs if a threshold is exceeded; and

means for loweringchanging a qualitycompression level of the first program, wherein the loweringchanging further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the qualitycompression level loweredchanged.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on an age of the first program.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on a difference between a current qualitycompression level of the first program and a minimum qualitycompression level of the first program.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the loweringchanging the qualitycompression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space in the storage among the plurality of programs.

12. (currently amended) A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs and based on whether the first program previously had a qualitycompression level ~~loweredchanged~~; and

~~loweringchanging~~ the qualitycompression level of the first program, wherein the ~~loweringchanging~~ further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

13. (original) The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on an age of the first program.

14. (currently amended) The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a difference between a current qualitycompression level of the first program and a minimum qualitycompression level of the first program.

15. (currently amended) The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the ~~loweringchanging~~ the qualitycompression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

16. (currently amended) The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the ranking comprises an initial qualitycompression level of the first program.

17. (currently amended) A digital video recorder comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs, based on whether the first program previously had a qualitycompression level loweredchanged, and based on an age of the first program, and

loweringchanging the qualitycompression level of the first program, wherein the loweringchanging further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

18. (currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a difference between a current qualitycompression level of the first program and a minimum qualitycompression level of the first program.

19. (currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the loweringchanging the qualitycompression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

20. (currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the ranking comprises an initial qualitycompression level of the first program.

21. (currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the instructions further comprise:

marking the first program as having the qualitycompression level previously loweredchanged.

22. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs, based on whether the first program previously had a qualitycompression level loweredchanged, based on an age of the first program, and based on a difference between a current qualitycompression level of the first program and a minimum qualitycompression level of the first program, and

loweringchanging the qualitycompression level of the first program, wherein the loweringchanging further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

23. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the loweringchanging the qualitycompression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

24. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the ranking comprises an initial qualitycompression level of the first program.

25. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:

marking the first program as having the qualitycompression level previously loweredchanged.